GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3284
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
REPORT OF GROUP OF TELECOM AND IT CONVERGENCE
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of telecom and IT Convergence has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): In pursuance of the New Telecom Policy-99, it is proposed to prepare a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian telegraph Act, 1885 keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The matter formed a specific term of reference of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence setup under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister. The Group appointed a Sub-Group under the chairmanship of eminent jurist Shri Fali S. Nariman, MP for the preparation of the draft of the above said Bill, which inter-alia envisages the establishment of a single autonomous statutory body to be known as the Communications Commission of India to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including telecommunications, broadcasting and multimedia), empowered to issue licences and registrations, determine licence and registration fees, tariffs and rates for services, allot spectrum, facilitate competition, protect consumer interests, etc.

The draft Bill is however still under finalisation, and the report of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence in this regard is awaited.